

Patent claims

1.-9. (cancelled)

10. (new) An arrangement, comprising:

components which can be addressed in a communication network, wherein

a component can be monitored by at least one other component, wherein

a monitoring instruction is given by a monitoring component, the instruction comprising the address of this monitoring component, wherein

each monitorable and monitoring component has communication mechanisms for direct data interchange, wherein

the monitoring component transmits the monitoring instruction directly to the component which is to be monitored, and wherein

each monitorable component has a storage mechanism for the addresses being in the monitoring instructions and a monitoring mechanism for state monitoring which, at least in the event of a change of state, transfers a state to be monitored directly to the monitoring component using the communication mechanisms.

11. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the communication network is a packet switched network.

12. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the number of addresses which can be registered in a storage mechanism are predetermined.

13. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the number of addresses which can be registered in a storage mechanism are predetermined.

14. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the monitoring instruction comprises information about which changes of state are to be transferred.

15. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the monitoring instruction comprises information about which changes of state are to be transferred.

16. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 12, wherein the monitoring instruction comprises information about which changes of state are to be transferred.

17. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the monitoring component uses the information about states or changes of state for visual indication and/or for storage and/or for forwarding to other components.

18. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the monitored component can disable monitoring by individual or all monitoring components.

19. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in cases in which a monitoring instruction cannot be transmitted, the monitoring component outputs a corresponding indicator and makes a fresh transmission attempt at stipulated intervals of time.

20. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the monitoring component uses the information about states or changes of state for visual indication and/or for storage and/or for forwarding to other components.

21. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 12, wherein the monitoring component uses the information about states or changes of state for visual indication and/or for storage and/or for forwarding to other components.

22. (new) The arrangement as claimed in claim 19, wherein the information about the transmittability of the monitoring instruction can be used to determine a corresponding state for the component which is to be monitored.

23. (new) A method for obtaining information about a state or a change of state in a component which is to be monitored and which is part of an arrangement having addressable components which are connected in the communication network, the method comprising:

- monitoring the component by at least one other component;

- commissioning a monitoring instruction by a monitoring component, wherein the instruction comprises the address of the monitoring component;

- directly interchanging data between the monitored and monitoring components;

- directly transmitting the monitoring instruction by the monitoring component to the component which is to be monitored;

storing the address of each monitoring component by each monitored component;
monitoring its own state by each monitored component; and
transferring the state to the monitoring component at least in the event of a change of state.

24. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

predetermining the number of addresses which can be registered in a storage mechanism.

25. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

canceling the monitoring by the monitored component.

26. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
in cases in which a monitoring instruction cannot be transmitted,

outputting a corresponding indicator by the monitoring component; and

performing a fresh transmission attempt at stipulated intervals of time.

27. (new) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the information about the ability to transmit the monitoring instruction is used to determine a corresponding state for the component which is to be monitored.